

REPORT  
OF THE  
PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
PHRENOLOGICAL SOCIETY,

SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT

ON 22<sup>d</sup> FEBRUARY 1820,

TO THE

CLOSE OF THE SECOND SESSION,

on 23<sup>d</sup> April 1821.

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*Printed by order of the Society, for the use of  
the Members.*

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## REPORT, &c.

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THE existence of this Society implies a belief in the Members, that the Brain is the organ of the Mind, and that particular parts of it are the organs of particular mental faculties; and that these facts afford a key to the true Philosophy of Man. The Society is aware of the opposition which the doctrines have met with, and of the ridicule which has been cast upon them; but they know also, that in all ages a similar reception has been given to the most important discoveries; which, nevertheless, have in time prevailed. The Pope imprisoned Galileo for teaching that the earth turned on its axis; but the earth continued to revolve after the Pope's denunciation as it had done before it, and carried him round on its surface, whether he believed in Galileo's assertion or not. As the evidence was examined, the fact itself was believed; and now Galileo is an object of respect, and the Pope of compassion or contempt. The result, it is believed, will be the same with Phrenology.

The propositions that Consciousness reveals nothing in regard to the seat or distribution of the organs of the mind, and Dissection nothing in regard to the functions of the brain, are so obviously true, that they admit of no dispute. Nevertheless, philosophers on the mind, in conducting their inquiries, have relied too much on mere mental reflection ; while physiologists, in seeking to discover the functions of the brain, have resorted too exclusively to dissection. These facts explain the past and present ignorance of mankind in general, on these interesting points in the Philosophy of Man ; and point out, in the clearest manner, the necessity of resorting to a new method of inquiry, that more perfect information may be obtained. Dr Gall was the first to introduce the mode of comparing mental manifestations with cerebral development ; and this method has led to discoveries which could never have been attained by the means previously employed. By this mode of philosophising, the Phrenologist has attained knowledge in place of ignorance, and system in place of hypothesis, in many points highly important in the Philosophy of the Mind, and the Physiology of the Brain ; and, while he perceives, with a mixture of pity and regret, the determination with which many sensible men adhere to the former defective systems, he feels a perfect conviction that the new method requires only to be studied to be highly appreciated ; and that as it becomes known the present opposition must disappear.

On 20th March, an Essay was read on the different species of Philosophy, and on the facilities afforded by Phrenology for the study of man, by the Rev. DAVID WELSH.

On 4th April, an Essay on the connection betwixt the Mind and the Brain, was read by Mr JAMES BROWNLEE.

On 17th April, an Essay on Insanity, as illustrated by Phrenology, was read by Mr ANDREW COMBE.

On 9th May, an Essay was read on the relation betwixt Metaphysics and Phrenology, by Mr WILLIAM RITCHIE.

On 30th May, an Essay on the principles of Dramatic Compositions, as illustrating man's belief as of the human mind affected by Individuals, therefore, read by Mr GEORGE DOUGLASS, of the doctrines of Phrenology, and think them too ridiculous to merit an inquiry : but the Society are convinced, that nevertheless every human being will continue, although unconsciously to himself, to manifest his faculties, by means of different parts of the brain, and with a power corresponding to their size and activity ; and that mankind at large will believe the fact, as they did the revolution of the globe, whenever they turn their attention to the evidence. The Society, therefore, hold the principles of Phrenology as no longer subject to doubt ; and while they recommend an attention to the subject to every reflecting and vir-

correspondence betwixt their instincts, and the development of their heads, was pointed out, so far as known, by Dr ROBERT WILLIS.

This terminated the first session of the Society; which, during this period, consisted of ten members: The meetings were adjourned till November in the same year.

In the interval, a knowledge of the science had been so rapidly diffused, and the number of applications to be admitted into the Society was so great, that at the first meeting in November, it was resolved to open the door of the Society to the admission of members upon a more extended scale. On 28th November, accordingly, the Society held its first public meeting in one of the apartments in the College, generally devoted to the use of literary Societies, and it has since continued to meet there. During the present season, the following Essays have been read.

1. An Explanation of some differences in Taste, on Phrenological principles, by Sir G. S. MACKENZIE.
2. An Essay on the causes of the imperfection of Metaphysical Science, and on the means of removing them, by Mr G. COMBE.
3. Phrenological observations on Haydon's picture of Christ's Entry into Jerusalem, by Sir G. MACKENZIE, and Mr A. BUCHANAN.



4. On the talents of eminent men, as illustrated by their cerebral development ; and, in particular, on the genius of certain living characters, whose development is known, by Mr A. BUCHANAN.
5. Farther observations on the progress of civilization in different nations, as illustrated by casts of their skulls, by Mr G. COMBE.
6. An Essay on the tendency which Phrenology is supposed to have towards Materialism, and on the means which it affords of accounting for the diversity of characters and intellectual endowments, observable among mankind, by Mr BROWNLEE.
7. An Essay on Dr THOMAS BROWN'S System of Metaphysics and Morals, as connected with Phrenology, by Mr RITCHIE.
8. Observations on Mr OWEN'S Plan for banishing Vice and Misery from Society, as affected by the doctrine of innate dispositions, and on the other means which remain of improving the condition of the human race, by Mr G. COMBE.

One of the most obvious truths in the Philosophy of man, is, that the character and conduct of individuals are the results of their innate dispositions and talents exercised by themselves, and modified by the circumstances in which they are placed. It follows from this principle, that crimes arise from

unfortunate natural dispositions ; from neglected education ; from the influence of unfavourable circumstances ; or from the joint action of all these causes. The causes of crimes must be known before effectual measures can be adopted for their prevention ; and hence it becomes an important object to discover, in what respect, or to what extent, the actions of criminals arise from natural tendencies, and to what extent from excitement produced by the circumstances in which they are placed. The first of these enquiries has hitherto been altogether neglected, from the impossibility experienced of attaining Philosophical knowledge upon the subject ; and while the first is unknown, any opinion formed upon the second must necessarily be imperfect. Phrenology affords the means of overcoming the difficulties of attaining information respecting the natural dispositions. The natural energy of the propensities, sentiments and intellectual faculties, is in proportion to the size and activity of the organs, and these can be ascertained by observation.

The Society, therefore, with the view of ascertaining the special combination of mental faculties, which exposes individuals most particularly to the temptation of committing crimes, have endeavoured to procure casts of the heads and skulls of as many criminals as possible. Reports on the conduct and development of the following individuals, illustrated by casts of their heads, were read to the Society.



1. Samuel Maxwell, executed at Edinburgh, for Stouthrief and Robbery, by Sir G. S. MAC-KENZIE.
2. Robert Dean, executed at London, for the Murder of a Child, by Mr G. COMBE.
3. John Dempsey, executed at Edinburgh, for murder committed at Greenock, by Mr JAMES LAW.
4. Charles Rotherham, executed at Nottingham, for murdering a woman whom he met upon the road, by Mr JOHN CALTHROP WILLIAMS.

The Society have, besides, procured casts of the skulls of nearly a dozen of other criminals, on whose cases reports have not yet been made; and they have no hesitation in saying, that some interesting views on the natural deficiencies of these individuals already begin to present themselves; although the views are not yet so far perfected, as to authorise a communication of them to the public.

Besides those now mentioned, the following reports and notices have been read to the Society.

Report on the Skull of King Robert Bruce, with observations on the character which it indicates, compared with his History, by Mr JAMES LAW.

Observations on the Talents of several distinguished individuals, as indicated by the de-

velopment of their heads, shewn in their portraits produced to the Society, by Mr JAMES STEWART.

Historical Notice of early opinions regarding the functions of the Brain, by Mr W. C. TREVELYAN and Mr GEORGE COMBE.

Notice of CARDAN, the Philosopher, and of some peculiarities of his character, indicating a particular endowment of several faculties, by Mr W. C. TREVELYAN.

No object is more interesting to Society, than the allotment of particular professions or occupations to individuals most fitted by nature to pursue them with advantage. Phrenology, by means of the cerebral development, affords a powerful help for discovering the natural dispositions and talents of individuals. The chief difficulty which remains, is to predict the effects of particular combinations of the primitive powers, and of particular modes of education upon them. Experience only can lead to certain knowledge upon these points; but experience can be obtained only by experiment and observation. The Society, therefore, by the kindness of a lady, who takes an interest in the science of Phrenology, has been made acquainted with the case of a girl of nine years of age, selected for education to a particular pursuit, on account of her cerebral development appearing eminently to fit her for such an avocation. A cast of the head has been

made, and a report of her development and endowments at the time, when her instruction commenced, has been placed among the records of the Society; and time will shew how far the anticipations formed have been well or ill founded. The experiment itself, whether successful or not, is of such a nature, that while its success may be attended with eminent advantage to the child, its failure cannot possibly do her harm, as the instruction which she receives, engages only a portion of her time, and it will be abandoned should her progress appear to indicate ultimate want of success. It is three months since the course of instruction was begun; and hitherto the indications have surpassed, rather than fallen short of the expectations entertained.

The diffusion of the doctrine has been greatly aided, in the season now closed, by the donation of a set of casts by Sir GEORGE MACKENZIE to the Society; and also communicated by him to O'NEIL and SON, Canongate, Edinburgh, to be moulded and sold to the public. Indeed, it is impossible to look at the skulls in this collection, embracing those of human Beings, from the lowest to the highest state of talent and civilization, and to doubt the correspondence betwixt mental endowment and cerebral development. The more widely, therefore, these casts are diffused, the more rapid, in all probability, will be the progress of the science.

The Society, in adjourning for the season, beg to recommend to the attention of corresponding

members, and to the friends of Phrenology in general, the following objects for the advancement of the science.

*First*, The Editors of the Periodical Publications, both in London and Edinburgh, have, with few exceptions, so committed themselves by inconsiderate attacks upon Drs GALL and SPURZHEIM, and their adherents, that they find it difficult to retrace their steps; and in consequence shut their columns against Phrenological communications; and the science is thus precluded from reaching the public.

The remedy for this evil is the establishment of a Phrenological Magazine and Review. The friends of the science, therefore, are requested, by collecting information, and interesting the circles around them in the subject, to prepare the way for the establishment and reception of such a work.

In the *second* place, From the skulls and casts already in the possession of the Society, it is impossible to doubt, that the characters of nations is distinctly indicated by the general development of their heads. A great addition, therefore, may be made to the knowledge of the dispositions and intellectual talents of the different races of men, by collecting skulls, and procuring authentic accounts of their manners and institutions. Travellers also, instructed in Phrenology, will find in it a key to many varieties of character in the nations whom



they visit; which, without such an aid, would be to them altogether inexplicable. Colonel STRATON, a corresponding member of the Society, has suggested, that a great light may probably, by this means, be thrown on the origin of the various tribes who have successively occupied Egypt; and expresses his regret that he was not acquainted with the science previously to his visit to Thebes.

The Society has availed itself of every opportunity which occurred, of calling the attention of individuals leaving their own country for foreign parts to this subject; but a great deal yet remains to be done. They beg leave, therefore, to solicit the attention of their Members, and literary gentlemen in general, whom pleasure or business may lead into distant countries, to the objects now mentioned.

*Lastly,* The information concerning the natural dispositions and instincts of the lower animals, is still vague and uncertain in no ordinary degree. The Phrenological mode of philosophising is applicable to many genera of them, as well as to man; for, particular parts of their brains have particular functions; and, in the case of the larger animals, much valuable and accurate information may be obtained, by comparing their habits and cerebral development. Mr ANDREW CARMICHAEL, of Dublin, a corresponding member of the Society, has suggested the following mode of conducting these inquiries:—"It was my intention," says that gen-



tleman, “ to have set about a Synopsis, for the purpose of promoting this object ; but my time is so occupied by business, that I am persuaded I shall never make the attempt ; but I hope that it will fall into abler hands. My plan was very simple : To form Four Columns under the Name of the animal. In the first column, to insert all the Habits, &c. of the animal recorded. In the second, to reduce these to such of the thirty-three faculties of Man, as they might most properly be ascribed to. In the third, to state whether the respective organs had been ascertained or not : and to leave the fourth for observations respecting the differences between the male and female, and for pointing out prominences supposed to be organs, the faculties of which had not yet been discovered. Such a synopsis would exhibit at a glance, the whole of our information, and all our deficiencies ; but, in the present state of our knowledge, the two last columns would be nearly blanks. Except the carnivorous organ in some beasts, and the musical organ in some birds, almost every thing else would be a *desideratum*.”

The Society recommend these observations to the attention of the Members, and especially to their corresponding Members in the country, whose situations afford them opportunities for prosecuting these inquiries with success. They beg leave also to add, that casts of the brains of the lower animals will afford still more certain means than their

skulls, of studying their instincts ; and they recommend that such casts should be taken wherever they can be procured.

The Society wish also, that more light were thrown upon the cerebral development of Idiots from birth : and they recommend to their Members to obtain casts of the heads, and, where opportunities occur, of the brains of these unfortunate persons, and to communicate them, with every well-authenticated particular, concerning their habits and conduct, to the Society.

The Laws and a List of the Members of the Society are annexed. The next ordinary meeting will be held on Tuesday, 13th November 1821. Gentlemen wishing to become Members, may address applications to the Secretary, No. 3. Castle Street, Edinburgh.

ALEX. FLEMING, *Secy.*

EDINBURGH,  
April 23. 1821. }



# LIST of the MEMBERS of the PHRENOLOGICAL SOCIETY, with the Dates of their Admission.

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## ORDINARY MEMBERS.

1820.

Feb. 22, George Combe, W. S.

James Brownlee, Advocate.

Andrew Combe, Surgeon.

Reverend David Welsh, Minister of Crossmichael.

Mar. 7. Alexander Fleming, W. S.

April. 4. William Ritchie, S. S. C.

17. Reverend Alexander Stewart, Minister of Douglas.

June 30. Robert Willis, M. D.

Sir G. S. Mackenzie, Bart. F. R. S. L. & E. &c.

Nov. 28. James Law *junior*, 38. York Place.

Robert Buchanan, St Ninian's.

W. C. Trevelyan, Wallington, Northumberland,

University College, Oxford, M. W. S. & M.

G. S.

Captain Thomas Brown, F. R. S. E. & M. W. S.

William Fraser, W. S.

M. Burd<sup>d</sup>, W. S.

Lindsay Mackersy, Accountant, Edinburgh.

J. Webster, Edinburgh.

Richard Poole, M. D.

1820.

Nov. 28. Patrick Neill, F. R. S. E. & Secretary of the  
Wernerian Society, and Horticultural Society  
of Edinburgh, &c. &c.

Dec. 11. William Graham, Duke Street.

Robert Hamilton, M. D.

James Ashwell, Civil Engineer of Nottingham.

Alexander Buchanan, Writer, Glasgow.

1821.

Jan. 15. Geo. Knight, English Academy, George Street.

J. M. Hogg, Newliston.

29. J. S. More, Advocate.

Francis Skelly, Bookseller, Prince's Street.

Henry David Inglis, W. E.

David Bridges, Merchant.

Wm. C. Macdonald, Surgeon, Royal Infirmary.

Wm. Brown, Surgeon.

Jo. Calthrop Williams of Nottingham. Student  
of Medicine.

Feb. 26. Robert Everest, University College, Oxford.

Benjamin Bell, 32. St Andrew's Square.

Mar. 12. David Clyne, S. S. C.

26. Reverend Thomas Irvine, Minister of Lundie.

J. R. Sibbald, Surgeon.

April 9. J. S. Pratt, Hanover Street.

John Macfarlane, Surgeon.

#### ARTISTS, who are ORDINARY MEMBERS.

1820.

June 30. James Stewart, Engraver, Hermitage Place.

Dec. 26. Samuel Joseph, Sculptor, of London, 24. James  
Square, Edinburgh.

1821.

Mar. 26. Wm. Douglas, Miniature Painter, Hart Street.



## HONORARY MEMBERS.

1820.

Mar. 20. F. J. Gall, M. D. Paris.

J. G. Spurzheim, M. D. Paris.

1821.

Jan. 15. Dr Herberski, Professor of Medicine in the University of Wilna.

## CORRESPONDING MEMBERS.

1820.

Mar. 20. Bryan Donkin, Civil Engineer, Grange Road, London.

June 30. Andrew Carmichael, 24. Rutland Square, Dublin.

J. H. Earle, Hinde Street, Manchester Square, London.

1821.

Jan. 29. Prideaux John Selby of Twizel House, Northumberland, Author of Illustrations of British Ornithology.

Mar. 26. Joseph Straton of Kirkside, F. R. S. E. Colonel of the Enniskilling Dragoons.

## OFFICE-BEARERS.

PRESIDENT.

GEORGE COMBE.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

Sir G. S. MACKENZIE, Bart.

JAMES BROWNLEE.

WILLIAM RITCHIE.

SECRETARY.

ALEXANDER FLEMING, W. S.



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# L A W S

OF THE

## PHRENOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

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### NAME AND OBJECT OF THE SOCIETY.

I. **T**HE Society shall be called the PHRENOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

II. The objects of the Society shall be to hear papers, and to discuss questions, connected with Phrenology; to hold a correspondence with Societies and individuals who may take an interest in the System; and thus to collect and preserve facts and views, that may improve and enlarge the boundaries of the science.

III. The order in which the business shall be taken up, shall be regulated from time to time by the Council.

## MEMBERS.

The Society shall consist of Ordinary, Corresponding, and Honorary Members.

### ORDINARY MEMBERS.

I. The number of Ordinary Members shall be unlimited.

II. Candidates for admission as Ordinary Members, shall apply by Letter, addressed to the Secretary, in the following terms :—“ SIR, I beg  
“ leave to solicit the honour of being admitted  
“ a Member of the Phrenological Society.” Every application shall bear annexed the following recommendation and certificate, subscribed by three Ordinary Members : “ We beg leave  
“ to recommend ——— as a proper person to  
“ be admitted a member of the Phrenological  
“ Society, and hereby certify that he is acquainted with the general principles of Phrenology, and knows the situation of the organs ; and that his cerebral development is  
“ as follows :” (Here shall be inserted an account of the development in the order of the organs). This recommendation shall be read at the first Ordinary Meeting after it is received, and a ballot shall take place at the next following Meeting, if nine Members be present, and two-thirds of the votes must be in favour of the Candidate, otherwise he shall not be considered elected.

III. Notice shall be given by the Secretary or Clerk, when any Candidate is to be balloted for, with his name and addition, at least eight days previous to the Meeting at which the ballot is to take place.

IV. Every Ordinary Member at his admission into the Society shall pay Two Guineas of entry money, and One Guinea annually thereafter, commencing in November after his admission, for five years, after which he shall not be liable in any further contributions. Any Member may, within six months of his admission, compound for his Annual Contributions, by payment of Three Guineas in addition to his Admission Fee \*. No person's name shall be recorded as a Member, until the Admission Fee is paid, and no Ordinary Member, after being six months in arrear of his annual contribution, shall be entitled to vote till it is paid. When a Member is two years in arrear, the Council may order his name to be erased from the list.

V. Artists recommended as above, when admitted Ordinary Members, shall not be liable in the payment of any Fee of Admission, or annual contribution.

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\* By a resolution of the Society, this privilege shall extend to the present Members till 1st January 1822.



VI. Ordinary Members, whom business or other causes may call to a residence distant from Edinburgh, shall not be liable, while so absent, to pay the Annual Contribution; but on their return to Edinburgh, they shall continue to pay in terms of Law IV. until they shall have paid up five years contributions.

### CORRESPONDING MEMBERS.

I. The number of Corresponding Members shall be unlimited.

II. Persons wishing to be admitted Corresponding Members of the Society, shall apply by Letter, addressed to the Secretary; but the specification of their development shall not be required as indispensable. They shall be balloted for as Ordinary Members, and not be liable to any Fee or Contribution. No person resident within three miles of Edinburgh shall be eligible as a Corresponding Member.

### HONORARY MEMBERS.

I. The number of Honorary Members shall not exceed twenty-five.

II. Persons proposed as such must be recommended by the Council, or twelve Ordinary Members. They shall be balloted for in the same manner as Ordinary Members, and a majority of

at least four-fifths of those present, ten being a quorum, shall be required for their election, and notice shall be given of the names of Candidates at least eight days previous to the ballot. Honorary Members shall not be liable to pay any Fee of Admission, or annual contribution.

## OFFICE-BEARERS AND COUNCIL.

I. None but Ordinary Members shall be entitled to hold Offices or vote in the Society.

II. The Office-Bearers of the Society shall consist of a President, four Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, who shall also be Treasurer, and a Clerk. These Office-bearers may be re-elected, except the two first Vice-Presidents, who shall go out of office in rotation, and not be again eligible to the office of Vice-President for two years.

III. There shall be a standing Committee of the Society under the title of The Council, to which the affairs of the Society shall be generally entrusted, subject, however, to the directions of the majorities of General Meetings. The Council shall consist of the Office-Bearers, (except the Clerk, when he is not a Member of the Society), and six Ordinary Members, two of whom shall go out of office annually by rotation, and not be again eligible to the office of Coun-

cillor for two years. Any two Office-Bearers, one of them being a President, or a Vice-President, and three of the Ordinary Councillors, shall be a quorum. The Council may appoint Committees, or individuals of their own number, to take charge of particular departments of the Society's business.

IV. The Office-Bearers and new Councillors shall be elected annually by ballot at the General Meeting in December.

V. The Secretary, assisted by the Clerk, shall record in the minute-book all the proceedings of Meetings, whether of the Society or of the Council; and in a separate book, all Reports and interesting communications made to the Society. He shall also conduct such correspondence as may be authorized by the Society or Council. He shall likewise receive and disburse all debts due to or by the Society; and shall lay a state of the Funds annually before the General Meeting, after his accounts shall have been audited and passed by the Council.

VI. The Council shall meet regularly once every two months during the Session, on the evenings of Ordinary Meetings, at 7 o'clock. The President, or two Vice-Presidents, or any

three Councillors, by themselves, or the President, on the requisition of five Ordinary Members, may call Extraordinary Meetings of the Council, when they shall see cause. Notice of the Meeting, and of its object, shall be given to each resident Member of the Council, at least 24 hours previous to its being held.

VII. All motions for Expulsion shall come from the Council, as a body, or from fifteen Ordinary Members signing a motion. Notice shall be given of the motion for expulsion eight days previous to the meeting at which it is to be moved; the votes shall be taken by ballot. Three-fourths of the Members present, twelve being a quorum, shall vote for the motion before it can be carried.

## MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY.

I. One stated General Meeting shall take place every year on the second Monday of December, at 2 o'clock Afternoon. The Council, or the President, or any Vice-President, on the requisition of ten Ordinary Members, may call an Extraordinary General Meeting, when they see cause. The object of each Extraordinary Meeting shall be notified eight days before it is held.

II. The Ordinary Meetings of the Society shall be held once a fortnight, commencing on the first



Tuesday of November yearly, at 8 o'clock in the evening, and they shall continue for six months.

III. At all Meetings the President in the Chair, shall, in case of an equality of votes, have a casting vote.

## LAWS.

I. Any Ordinary Member, may at any time propose additional Laws. On such a proposal being made, a copy of it shall be sent to each Ordinary Member, with notice that it will fall to be discussed at an Extraordinary Meeting, three weeks after the Meeting at which it has been proposed. But no Law once agreed to shall be altered, or new Law proposed, unless three weeks notice of the proposal be given to all the Members resident in Edinburgh, previous to the Meeting which is to decide on it. On balloting for the alteration or adoption of a Law, three-fourths of those present, a quorum being twelve, must vote for it, otherwise the proposal shall be rejected. When a Law is altered or adopted, notice thereof shall be immediately given to all the resident Members.

II. The Laws shall be engrossed in a Book, and signed by each Member at his admission into the Society. Each new Law or alteration of a Law, shall likewise be engrossed in the same book,



and signed by the Secretary and President, whose signatures shall bind the whole persons constituting the Society.

### VISITORS.

On the application of Ordinary Members, at least two days previous to each Ordinary Meeting, Tickets for the admission of five Visitors to the public business of the meeting may be issued by the President, or, in his absence, by the senior Vice-President in Town.

### PROPERTY OF THE SOCIETY.

When the Funds exceed L. 20 Sterl. they shall be deposited in the Bank of Sir William Forbes and Company, in name of the President and Secretary. The Casts, Books, Portraits, and other property of the Society, shall be under the management of the Council, and shall be accessible to the Members, under such regulations as the Council shall appoint.

### DIPLOMAS.

Members wishing a Diploma, certifying that they are Members of the Society, shall receive the same, subscribed by the President and Secretary. The Diplomas issued shall be regularly registered by the Secretary in a book to be kept for the purpose. The Council shall have power to add special clauses to any Diploma.

